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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LANDOVER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GUN OFFENSES**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Roland A. Williams, 31, of Landover, Maryland pleaded guilty on August 13, 2003, to Conspiracy, Theft of Firearms, Possession of Stolen Firearms, and two counts of being a Felon-In-Possession of a Firearm.

The federal jury trial began on August 12, 2003 before the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. in United States District Court in Greenbelt. Testimony was scheduled to continue during the afternoon of August 13th, but was halted when the defendant decided to end his participation in the trial by pleading guilty to all counts in the Superseding Indictment.

In a Statement of Facts provided to the Court as part of the plea agreement, the defendant, a previously-convicted felon, admitted that beginning in or about February 2003 until in or about the March 2003, he conspired with Samuel Bush Wright to break into several area federally licensed firearms dealerships to steal firearms. Specifically, the defendant admitted that he and the co-conspirator broke into the Galyan's Trading Company located in Gaithersburg, Maryland and stole 23 firearms. He further admitted to attempting to break into two to other federally licensed gun

dealerships, The Gun Rack in Burtonsville, Maryland and A&D Pawn Shop in Glen Burnie, Maryland in March 2003. The defendant also admitted that he and his co-conspirator attempted to obtain firearms by breaking into the Galyan's Trading Store in Fairfax, VA in March 2003.

When the defendant was arrested on March 11, 2003, one of the handguns stolen from the Gaithersburg Galyan's was recovered on him. In addition, another firearm from that store was recovered during the execution of a search warrant at the defendant's home.

Williams face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for each offense for the theft of firearms, possession of stolen firearms, and the two felon-in-possession charges for a total of 40 years, followed by a term of 3 years' supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. He also faces a maximum sentence in prison of 5 years for the Conspiracy count.

United States District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. scheduled sentencing for November 13, 2003. The defendant is held without bond pending sentencing.

The case is a result of a joint investigation between the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Montgomery County Police Department, and the Prince George's County Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gina L. Simms.